Package for BSNL

3052. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are conducting a bail out package of more than Rs. 18,000 crore for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are not considering an initial public offer (IPO) for BSNL on the lines of Maruti to raise money for restructuring instead of giving bail out package of BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The financial support to BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) to the tune of Rs. 18,515 crores for a period of 5 years i.e. upto the end of 10th Five Year Plan for providing services in rural areas is under consideration of the Government. The financial support includes reimbursement of license fees, spectrum charges and extension of moratorium on repayment of principal and interest on Government loans beyond 2004.

(c) There is no proposal for disinvestments of BSNL including initial public offer.

Increase in capital investment in IT Sector

†3053. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the capital investments in the IT industry sector have been consistently increasing over the years;

(b) if so, the quantum of capital investments made in this industry during the years 2000-01, 2001 -02 and 2002-03; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.